

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sponsor: Wendling Quarries, Inc
P.O. Box 230, Dewitt, Iowa 52742

Issued: December 17, 2020

Expires: January 16, 2021

Corps Project Number: CEMVR-OD-P-2020-1710

Proposed Project: Manatt's Iowa Valley Wetland Mitigation Bank

WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

This notice is issued in accordance with the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule (the Mitigation Rule) described in the Federal Register dated April 10, 2008 (33 CFR Parts 325 and 332).

1. **Project Location:** The proposed site is located within Section 3, Township 82 North, Range 15 West, Tama County, Iowa. Latitude: 41.944604 Longitude: -92.584159, See attached location maps.

2. **Bank Objectives:** The fundamental objective of compensatory mitigation is to offset environmental losses resulting from unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States authorized by Department of Army Permits. Other Objectives include: Provide economical mitigation options; Support no net-loss of wetlands; Enhance or create additional wildlife habitat; Provide flood retention for the watershed and, Provide natural areas for the watershed.

3. **Project Description/Bank Establishment:** The bank sponsor proposes to complete activities on 78.89 acres of property that would result in the establishment of both forested and emergent wetland mitigation credits. The goal of the bank is to enhance/restore wetlands to generate approximately 70 wetland credits. Wetland enhancement/restoration construction would include the excavation and grading of 70 plus acres, constructing a culvert to divert water into the bank and constructing a berm around the perimeter of the field to aid in capturing and holding water. To handle larger storm events, an armored spillway will be installed in the berm along the western edge, discharging into adjacent ponds. A wetland delineation was completed in April 2020 and identified 1.17 acres of emergent wetland within the bank area. This delineation will aid in the determination of credits. Success criteria would be developed and required to be met in order to generate credit for the proposed activities. Please see the detailed project description and drawings located within the bank Prospectus on RIBITS (link in #14, below).

4. **Service Area:** The proposed primary bank service area will be the Iowa Service Area.

5. **Bank Need/Technical Feasibility/Ecological Suitability:** The sponsor has considered future Iowa DOT projects and development in surrounding municipalities to determine the need for wetland mitigation. The sponsor has looked at the technical feasibility of the site and has determined it is very high. All the soil within the proposed area is hydric, there are also sources of surface water available and the low topographic relief provides conditions conducive to wetland restoration/enhancement. The proposal would restore the ecological value that was lost due to previous impacts to this riparian area.

6. **Long Term Management:** Post bank closure management would include ongoing plant management which may require herbicide and fire treatment additional seeding, as well as, general site maintenance. The responsibility for long term management is held by the bank sponsor/landowner. A conservation easement will be required in perpetuity and will be held by a third-party grantee to ensure the conservation value of the property is protected. A long-term management fund will be established, and available to the grantee, to ensure funds are available should the sponsor fail to properly maintain the site.

7. **Sponsor Qualifications:** The Sponsor's experience in quarry and sand and gravel mining operations make them suited to successfully complete the needed excavation and grading, and to follow through on contingency plans if they become required. The sponsor has also hired a professional consultant familiar with mitigation bank approval, development and monitoring. This consultant has experience developing multiple successful mitigation banks in the State of Iowa.

8. **Water Rights:** The sponsor is currently looking at purchases the property associated with the bank proposal. The sponsor would not have complete control of upstream practices that may alter flows to the project area.

9. **Agency Review:** Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineer is participating in this matter as the chair of an Interagency Review Team. The Interagency Review Team consists of the Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The project would require Section 404, Clean Water Act authorization prior to the proposed construction. If approved, the proposed bank could provide stream and wetland credit for future, Section 404, authorized projects that require compensatory mitigation. Formal authorization of the bank proposal occurs through Corps approval of a Mitigation Banking Instrument.

10. **Historical/Archaeological:** The District consulted with the Iowa online geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases and determined the permit area has not been previously surveyed. Based on a review of historic and current aerial photos, topo maps, the HILD database / Culture Map it is the opinion of the District Archaeologist the permit area has the potential to contain historic properties that may be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The District will require the applicant to submit two (2) copies of a Phase I archaeological survey and geomorphological evaluation report covering the permit area. Geomorphological investigation must extend at least 50 centimeters below the proposed depths of soil disturbance or to a depth below which no possibility of historic properties exists. The applicant, in addition to this Phase I report, may be required to conduct additional Phase II test excavations to evaluate sites for eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP as well as other studies, site avoidance, or data recovery as may be the case.

11. Endangered Species: This proposal is being reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments USFWS may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. Any adverse effects on endangered species will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the proposed work.

12. Who Should Reply: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to approve the proposed bank. Any comments received will be distributed to the members of the Interagency Review Team. Comments should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. Comments should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable. Any person may also request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

13. Reply to the Corps of Engineers: Comments or questions concerning this notice may be directed to Abby Steele (309/794-5377) (Abigail.a.steele@usace.army.mil), US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P, Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.

14. Complete Prospectus: The complete prospectus can be found on our public website at: https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:18264876000701::NO:RP,278:P278_BANK_ID:5900 Hard copies are also available by request.

Attach
Plan

Ms. Abigail Steele
Project Manager, Western Branch
Regulatory Division

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display advertising

Exhibit A-1: Location Map

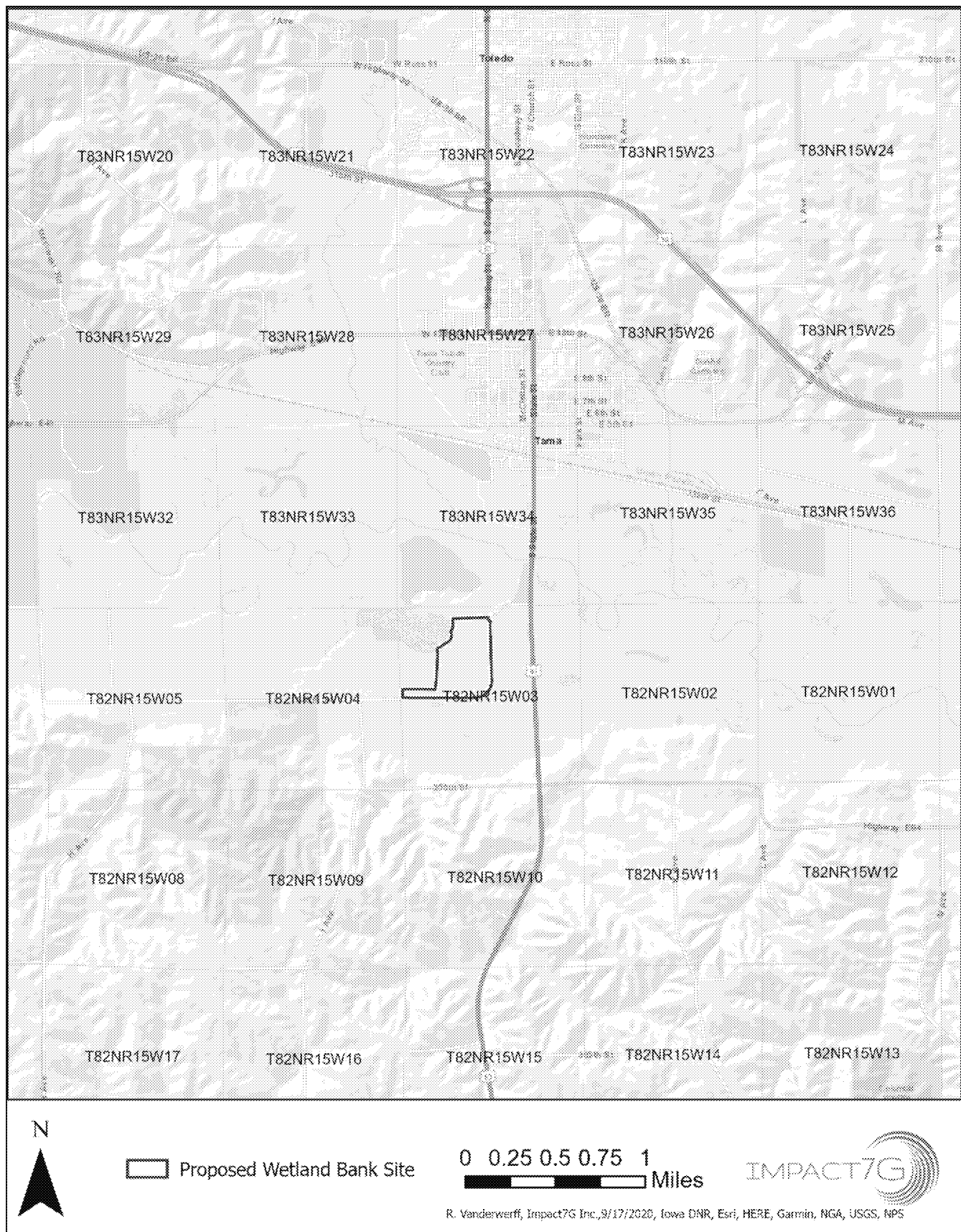


Exhibit A-7: Preliminary Work Plan

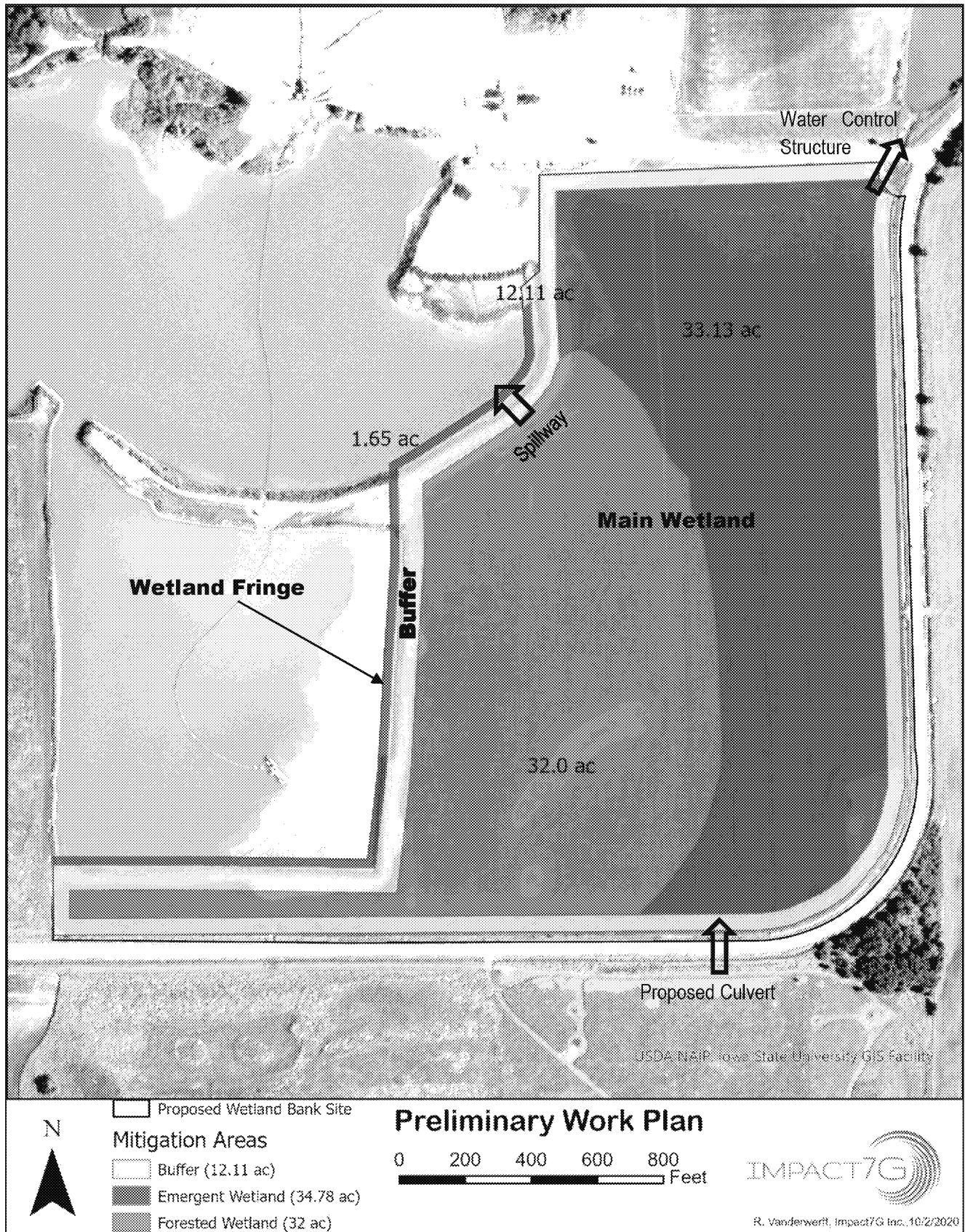


Figure A: Wetland Delineation Map

